

Applicant: Richard B. Himmelstein
Application No.: 09/585,151

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-16, 20, and 36-51 are currently pending in this application. Claims 1, 5, 7-12, 36-38, 40, 43, and 45-48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over "HTML 4.0 Specification" (hereinafter "HTML") in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,974,416 to Anand et al. (hereinafter "Anand"). Claims 3, 4, 39, 41, and 42 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over HTML in view of Anand and further in view of "Hyperactions in a Markup Language," (hereinafter "Hyperactions"). Claims 13-15 and 51 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over HTML in view of Anand and further in view of "Distributed Databases." Claim 16 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over HTML in view of Anand and further in view of "Distributed Databases" and "Module mod_log_common." Claims 6, 20, and 44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over HTML in view of Anand and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,826,034 to Albal.

By the foregoing amendments, Applicant has deleted the currently pending claims and added new claims 52-82. The Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's assertions regarding the rejections of the pending claims 1, 3-16, 20 and 36-51 in view of various combinations of HTML, Anand, Hyperactions, Distributed Databases, Module mod_log_common and Albal. Applicant's position that these references are clearly not relevant to the present invention is set forth in detail in

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Applicant's replies to the prior Office Actions. However, in order to advance the prosecution of the pending application, Applicant has deleted the pending claims and submitted a new set of claims more specifically directed to the interactive directory system of the present invention. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute deleted claims 1, 13-16, 20 and 36-51 in another patent application.

The new claims are directed to an interactive directory system utilizing a key phrase field in combination with a selectively definable data table for searching for unique identifiers in a network of computers and populating the data table with those unique identifiers. Further actions can then be taken based upon the selection of the unique identifiers.

Applicant respectfully submits that new claims 52-82, which are narrowly tailored to the present invention, are clearly not described or suggested by any of the prior art references. However, due to the Examiner's reliance upon the references for the previously pending claims, Applicant would like to comment upon the two primary references, namely HTML and Anand, as they relate to the new claims.

HTML discloses the building blocks for any HTML-based document, including documents having such items as tables with columns and rows. The present invention may or may not be implemented in HTML; the particular technology is not relevant to the present invention. However, the Applicant is not

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claiming the invention of a data table. The Applicant is specifically claiming an interactive directory system which facilitates searching of a network of computers and populating of a selectively definable data table such that is in a format a user can easily use.

Anand discloses a method and tabular data stream format for transferring tabular data between clients and servers. In the method of Anand, a user queries a remote database via a client process. This query is sent to a Web server, which queries databases via a database interface. The information is retrieved from the databases and is sent back to the user. The user manipulates a local copy of the retrieved data and the user makes changes to the data. The changes are then uploaded to the databases. Essentially, the method and data format of Anand permit a user to indirectly manipulate data stored in one or more remote databases.

The present invention has several significant differences over Anand. Anand contains no mention of the specific types of queries that are performed. The query feature disclosed in Anand returns data in a tabular format, according to a specific format, (the ADTG format). There is no hint or suggestion in Anand that would lead one skilled in the art to create a query that is a combination of: 1) a key phrase field; 2) a column heading; and 3) a row heading, as recited in the present invention.

It is respectfully submitted that HTML and Anand, taken together or alone, do not disclose the features of the present invention. In particular, neither of the

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cited references disclose a type of search that matches information in a key phrase field, in at least one column heading, and at least one row heading and reaches a network of computers to selectively populate a data table defined by those headings. The Examiner previously cited several sections of Anand and HTML to support the position that “[i]t would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Anand to include a search button based upon the disclosures of “HTML” and Anand.” However, Applicant respectfully submits that there is no motivation in either document that suggest such a combination.

In the present invention, the key phrase field, the column heading and the row heading in the data table are all used to specifically define a single query. Each of the column heading, the row heading and the key phrase field are all important in defining the search for the unique identifier.


It is respectfully submitted that the amendments and remarks made herein place claims 52-82 in condition for allowance. Accordingly, entry of this amendment as well as reconsideration and allowance of claims 52-82 are respectfully requested.

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If the Examiner does not believe that the claims are in condition for allowance, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at 215-568-6400.

Respectfully submitted,

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